

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJ: AGREEMENTS ON WAGE ESCALATION AND PENSIONS

A) ROME'S 1323; B) ROME'S 0691

1) SUMMARY: WAGE ESCALATION INCREASES HAVE BEEN AGREED FOR COMMERCIAL WORKERS, BUT TALKS HAVE BROKEN DOWN FOR THEIR EXTENSION TO THE PUBLIC SECTOR. THE CCU AND THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ALSO REACHED FINAL AGREEMENT ON PENSION INCREASES, THOUGH THERE IS NO AGREEMENT YET ON TRYING PENSIONS TO WAGE DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY

2) AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) AND CONFCOMMERCIO, THE EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATION IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR, FOR REFORM OF THE WAGE ESCALATION SYSTEM. THE NEW TERMS TO BE APPLICABLE TO SOME TWO MILLION COMMERCIAL WORKERS IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS AGREED EARLIER IN INDUSTRY (SEE REF. A).

3) TALKS ARE CONTINUING IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND SMALL BUSINESS SECTIONS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SIMILAR REFORMS. IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, HOWEVER, TALKS HAVE BROKEN DOWN AND THE CCU IS CONTEMPLATING A GENERAL STRIKE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

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4) THE CCU HAS REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON INCREASES IN PENSIONS. THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED JANUARY 15 (REF. B) ALMOST CAME UNSTUCK WHEN THE CONSTITUENT UNIONS INSISTED ON INCREASES OF 15,000 LIRE MONTHLY (635 LIRE EQUAL ONE DOLLAR) COMPARED WITH THE 12,000 LIRE OFFERED. AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED TO AUGMENT ALL PENSIONS OF LESS THAN 100,000 LIRE MONTHLY BY 13,000 LIRE. (OTHER DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT CONFORM TO THE DESCRIPTION GIVEN IN REF. B).

5. UNSOLVED AS YET IS THE DEMAND THAT PENSIONS BE TIED TO WAGE DEVELOPMENTS. THE UNIONS HAVE REJECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL THAT THIS BE FINANCED BY INCREASED EMPLOYERS CONTRIBUTIONS. THE LABOR REASONING IS THAT EMPLOYERS HAVE ALREADY DONE ALL THEY CAN BE ASKED TO DO BY AGREEMENT TO THE REFORM OF THE WAGE ESCALATION SYSTEM.VOLPE

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